

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell system comprising:
a fuel cell subsystem comprising a fuel cell stack adapted to furnish power to a load;
a battery;
a first circuit adapted to selectively connect the battery to the load and isolate the battery
from the load based on a response of ~~when~~ the fuel cell subsystem ~~substantially delays in~~
~~responding~~ to a change in the power;
a current sensor to indicate a current through the fuel cell stack; and
a second circuit coupled to the current sensor to monitor cell voltages of the fuel cell
stack, determine the minimum of the cell voltages and prevent the current from exceeding a
maximum threshold current based on the minimum cell voltage.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The fuel cell system of claim 1, wherein the fuel cell subsystem
comprises:

a fuel cell stack adapted to receive a hydrogen flow; and
a fuel processor to produce the hydrogen flow.

4. (Original) The fuel cell system of claim 3, wherein the fuel cell subsystem further
comprises:

a controller adapted to monitor the power and regulate a rate at which the fuel processor
produces the hydrogen flow based on the monitored power.

5. (Original) The fuel cell system of claim 1, wherein the first circuit is further
adapted to connect the battery to the load based on a fuel cell stack voltage of the fuel cell
subsystem.

6. (Original) The fuel cell system of claim 1, wherein the first circuit comprises:
a first diode to couple the battery to the fuel cell subsystem when a stack voltage of the fuel cell subsystem is near a predefined threshold voltage.

7. (Original) The fuel cell system of claim 1, wherein the second circuit comprises:
a voltage regulator adapted to regulate a stack voltage of the fuel cell stack and limit the current through the stack.

8. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
using a fuel cell stack to furnish power to a load;
selectively connecting a battery to the load and isolating the battery from the load in response to based on a response of the fuel cell stack substantially delaying when responding to a change in the power;
monitoring a current through the fuel cell stack;
monitoring cell voltages of the fuel cell stack;
determining the minimum of the cell voltages; and
preventing the current from exceeding a maximum threshold current based on the minimum cell voltage.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising:
monitoring the power;
producing hydrogen;
regulating a rate of the production in response to the monitoring; and
providing the hydrogen to a fuel cell stack of the system.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising:
connecting the battery to the load based on a fuel cell stack voltage of the fuel cell subsystem.

12. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising:
connecting the battery to the load when a stack voltage of the fuel cell subsystem is near a predefined threshold voltage.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, further comprising:
using a voltage regulator to regulate a stack voltage of the fuel cell stack and limit the current through the stack.-

14. (Original) A fuel cell system comprising:
a fuel cell subsystem adapted to measure a lowest cell voltage and further adapted to furnish power to a load, wherein the fuel cell subsystem is connected to the load through a diode;
a fuel processor subsystem adapted to furnish reformat to the fuel cell subsystem; and
a supplemental power subsystem adapted to furnish power to the load when the lowest cell voltage drops below a predefined threshold voltage, wherein the supplemental power subsystem is connected to the load through a diode.

15. (Original) A fuel cell system comprising:
a fuel cell subsystem adapted to measure a lowest cell voltage and further adapted to furnish power to a load, wherein the fuel cell subsystem is connected to the load through a diode;
a fuel processor subsystem adapted to furnish reformat to the fuel cell subsystem;
a supplemental power subsystem adapted to furnish power to the load when the lowest cell voltage drops below a predefined threshold voltage, wherein the supplemental power subsystem is connected to the load through a diode; and
a controller adapted to monitor the power and regulate a rate at which the fuel processor produces the hydrogen flow based on the monitored power.

16. (Original) The fuel cell system of claim 15, further comprising:
a predefined threshold voltage of -0.35 volts.

~~18~~17. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell system of claim 15, further comprising:
a predefined threshold voltage of more than -0.4 volts.

~~19~~18. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell system of claim 15, further comprising:
a predefined threshold voltage of more than -0.5 volts.